

Selected impacts to DEQ services from 5% plan reductions

Below, I've highlighted a sampling of the impacts of the 5% reduction in General Funds and State Special Revenues to services provided by DEQ's Permitting & Compliance Division, and one in our Planning Division. These particular examples of the cuts total \$57,000 in General Fund and nearly \$650,000 in state special revenue (primarily fees). Among the impacts would be a slight slowdown in timeliness of issuing permits, reduced funding of county programs, and a reduction in the energy audits we conduct on public buildings.

DEQ Permitting Division (Program 50):

Priority #7 – Contracted Services Reduction

\$278,678 state special revenue

This cut would reduce contracts to counties that support their air quality programs and public water supply work. Other impacts would be a reduction in the contract with MSU-Northern for providing water and wastewater operator training; our on-line services and database development in air quality, coal and waste permitting; and research in mining regulatory programs on state-of-the-art mining techniques.

Priority #9 – Operating Expenses Reduction

\$172,145 state special revenue

The 5% cut would reduce funding for lab work in mining programs.

Priority #13 – Travel and training Reduction

\$ 80,127 state special revenue

The cut would eliminate specialized training that is only available out-of-state, for water discharge (MPDES) and air quality permit writers. The training helps them issue better permits more expeditiously.

Priority #16 – Personal Services Reductions

\$ 56,972 general fund

\$101,454 state special revenue

This cut would result in a slight slowdown in permit issuance across permit programs

DEQ Planning Division (Program 20):

Priority #8 –Energy Contracts Reduction

\$ 16,761 state special revenue

This cut would eliminate DEQ's ability to conduct energy audits on public facilities in eastern Montana using unspent Universal System Benefit Charge funds reverted to the State of Montana from Montana-Dakota Utilities.